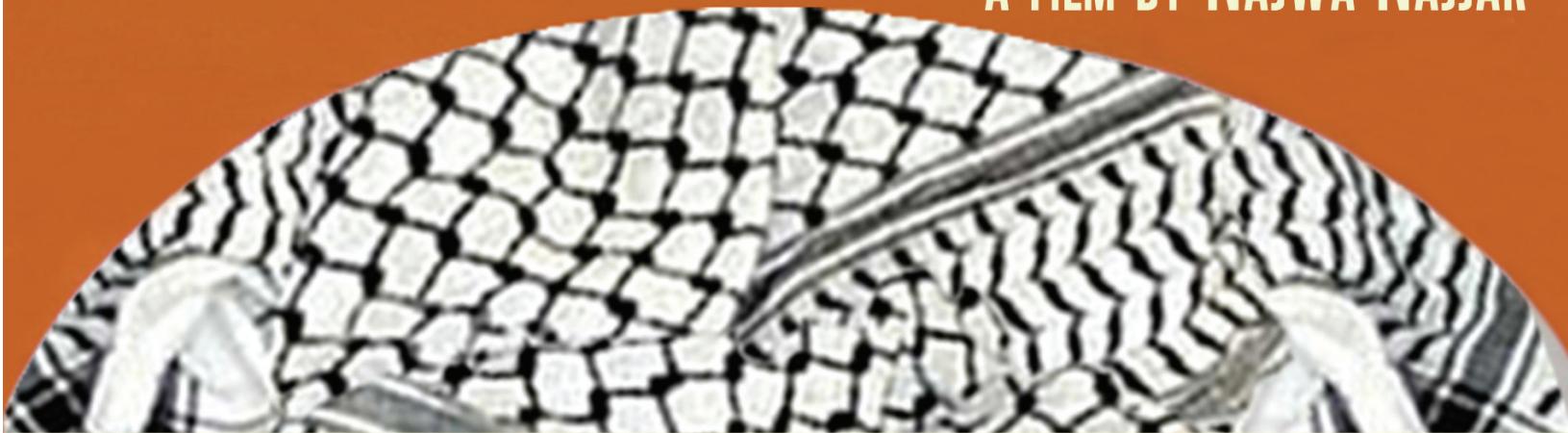


EYES OF A THIEF

A FILM BY NAJWA NAJJAR





Inspired by a true event

Everyone has secrets.. some are more dangerous than others

As a father searches for the daughter he left years ago, he returns to a place hit by drastic changes and filled with secrets, with the sense of moral certainty replaced by questionable individual choices and no easy answers.

Arab World Egyptian superstar Khaled Abol Naga and French/Algerian Singer Souad Massi came together in Najwa Najjar's film **Eyes of a Thief** with a slew of top Palestinian actors and actresses. **Eyes of a Thief** is Najjar's second feature after the critically acclaimed **Pomegranates and Myrrh**.

The film shot completely in the Occupied Palestinian Territories made Palestinian cinematic history by bringing in two Arab superstars to its screen and story.

A Human and Child rights activist and the UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador since 2007, Khaled Abou Naga was able to infuse the role of Tareq, a father with a dangerous secret searching for his daughter, with the needed passion and emotion.

Souad Massi in her first acting role, plays the half Algerian half Palestinian woman, Lila, taking care of Tareq's daughter, Malak. Lila was molded to fit the real Souad Massi, with her voice and song filtering through the film.

Acting for the first time (as Malak) is also nine year old Malak Ermileh from Balata Refugee Camp near Nablus. Fiesty and charismatic she changed the story from a father searching for his son, to a father searching for his daughter.

Seasoned Palestinian actor Suheil Haddad was cast as Adel, the self proclaimed head of the town. Khaled Horani, Maisa Abd Al Hadi, Areen Omari, Iman Aoun, Nisreen Faour, Khaled Massou and Waleed Abdel Salam made up the colourful characters in the story.

French/Algerian Singer SOUAD MASSI



Egyptian Actor KHALED ABOL NAGA





Palestinian Actor SUHEIL HADDAD



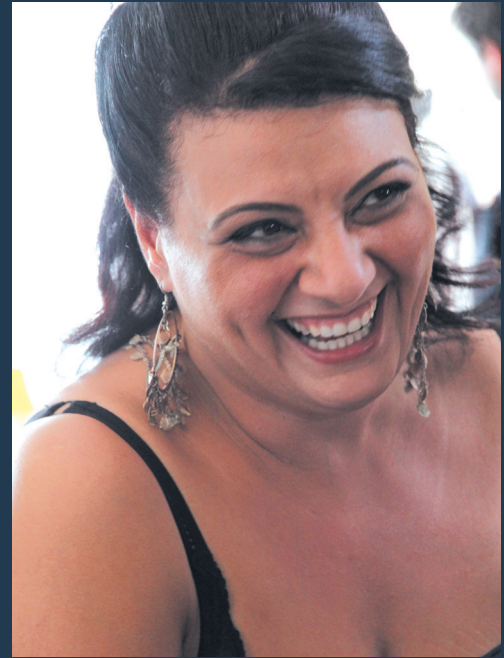
From Balata Refugee Camp introducing MALAK ERMILEH







NABLUS







THE IMPOSSIBLE

Tawfiq Zayyad

It is much easier for you
To push an elephant through a needle's eye,
Catch fried fish in galaxy,
Blow out the sun,
Imprison the wind,
Or make a crocodile speak,
Than to destroy by persecution
The shimmering glow of a belief
Or check our march
Towards our cause
One single step.....

(7 May 1929 – 5 July 1994)

A Palestinian politician and poet

DIRECTORS MOTIVATION

Inspired by a true story in 2002 at the height of the second Palestinian Intifada, one incident puzzled both Palestinians and Israelis more than any other.

Intrigued by a story, which many called “terrorism” while others called it “self defense,” raised the questions of resistance and survival when people are under fire. The changes to the meaning of resistance today lead me to probe further on how justice, dignity, democracy and self determination can be achieved when hope of a real peace based on the above tenets was being extinguished.

Eyes of a Thief questions what happens when reason and hope diminishes, apathy increases, and when consciousness is almost extinct. Will people’s will to resist and survive also diminish? What options lie in store? These questions are not only relevant to Palestine but to the whole region.

For decades the discourse on resistance and survival the Arab World has been misrepresented and oversimplified, creating an askew discussion. For far too long, this side of the story has been told by many others overlooking the Arab perspective, the place and the people involved.

Central to Eyes of a Thief is the need to represent the region in ways that challenges its reductive portrayal in the mainstream media. My hope is that by presenting a story, which include different characters both Christians and Moslems, and one which dares to chart unfamiliar ground in Arab cinema, will be another step towards ending the warped hegemony of partial and/or inaccurate narratives, and change perceptions and images from the region defined and dominated by misconceive convictions and/or distorted television stereotypes.

Only by hearing all sides... can there truly be an understanding of the place, its people, their dreams and aspirations of dignity, justice, democracy and self determination .. in light of the integration of the whole region’s past, present and future.

-Najwa Najjar









SOLOMON POOLS





The story was written and directed by Najwa Najjar, who also produced the film with Hani Kort (Ustura Films). Co-Producers include Algeria/ Mustafa Orif (Agence Algérienne pour le Rayonnement Culturel AARC) France/ Antoine Clermont de Tonnerre (MACT Films) and Iceland/ Fahad Jabali (Oktober Films).

Associate Producers : Meinolf Zurhorst, Bassem Hakim, Sami Jayyousi and Hussam Khoury

The script was awarded the Dubai Connection Award and the Sundance Duke Grant, and was part of the Sundance Scriptwriting Lab and the Rome IFF New Cinema Network.

Eyes of a Thief was supported by The State of Palestine Ministry of Culture, the Doha Film Institute, Royal Film Commission Jordan Film Fund, Wataniya Palestine, and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Jerusalem, the Centre National du Cinéma et de l'Image Animée (CNC World Cinema Fund), Icelandic Film Fund and ZDF/Arte.

Writer/ Director Najwa Najjar received her BA in PolSc/Econ, MA in Film (US). She has worked in both documentary and fiction. Her debut feature film was the award winning **Pomegranates and Myrrh (2009)** played in over 80 festivals, was sold worldwide and released theatrically.

Previous work include several award-winning films also shown worldwide (Berlin, Cannes, Locarno, Hamptons,) : **Yasmine Tughani (2006)** , **Naim and Wade'a (2000)**, **Quintessence of Oblivion(2001)**, **Blue Gold (2004)**, **A Boy Called Mohamad (2002)**, and **They Came from the East** which opened the 2004 European Academy Awards. Najjar produced a collection of short films by international filmmakers **Gaza Winter (2009)** and is writing her third feature, a musical **From Alex to Yaffa**.

A speaker on numerous panels on cinema and a Jury member of several International Film Festivals. Najjar has also reviewed books, and her articles on Palestinian cinema have been published. She has been a reader for Arab scriptwriters and more recently a Creative Advisor for the Rawi Sundance Lab, and has organized a seminars for filmmakers. Najjar lives in Palestine.





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